

(Washington, DC)- Today Congresswoman Gwen Moore announced that the Milwaukee Department of City Development (DCD) has been selected to receive a \$2 million Brownfields Economic Development Initiative (BEDI) grant. The grant, awarded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), is the largest Brownfield redevelopment grant ever won by the city and will be used for the largest environmental clean-up in Milwaukee's history. The DCD has also been selected to receive a \$10 million Section 108 Loan Guarantee for further development of the area, including the creation of a model urban industrial park.

The Milwaukee DCD is using these awards, along with other hard-earned grants, for the remediation and redevelopment of a 100-acre industrial park on the former Milwaukee Road's Railroad shops' property, located in Wisconsin's Fourth Congressional District. The business park, which is located within an area with the highest concentration of workers in the state of Wisconsin, will be fully ready for private business construction in early 2007. A quarter of the business park has already been approved for sale to Palermo's Pizza, a national business which is headquartered in Milwaukee.

"Thanks to these two substantial awards, the city of Milwaukee will be able to reclaim land that had been deemed worthless due to contamination by dangerous chemicals," said Congresswoman Moore. "Through this redevelopment project, this site in Menomonee Valley that was once unusable will become the one of the most marketable industrial properties in southeastern Wisconsin. The new industrial park project will create hundreds of jobs and will generate an environment in which local small businesses can flourish and to which businesses from outside of Milwaukee can be attracted."

Congresswoman Moore helped to expedite the receipt of these awards from HUD, as the approval process can often move more slowly than construction plans.

BEDI grants are distributed by HUD for the clean-up of vacant industrial sites that have been rendered useless by environmental contamination and hazardous substances. HUD's Section 108 Loan Guarantees enable local governments to borrow money from private investors at a significantly reduced rate for the purpose of investing in areas of economic hardship. The intended result is stimulation of job growth, improvement of public facilities, and creation of commercial properties and housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income families.

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